

**To:** Daguiard, Robert[Daguiard.Robert@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Loop, Travis[Loop.Travis@epa.gov]; Bowie, Vanessa[Bowie.Vanessa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hanson, Brooke  
**Sent:** Tue 8/18/2015 5:35:25 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EFC press release

Hi All,

I am leaving early morning tomorrow for Durango to assist on-site. Since I may be slower to respond while I am out there, I'm including Vanessa Bowie from our Center for Environmental Finance in this email chain. Please let her know the time for the press release distribution on Thursday so OCFO can coordinate other notifications (Congressional, grantee notifications, RA notifications), as appropriate, as well as ensure our updated web content is live.

Has the language below received final OPA approval?

Thanks,

Brooke

**From:** Hanson, Brooke  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 8:40 AM  
**To:** Daguiard, Robert; Allen, Laura; Lee, Monica  
**Cc:** Loop, Travis  
**Subject:** EFC press release

Hi Robert,

Per our conversation this morning, I'm circulating the draft EFC release. We are requesting distribution this Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> (anytime is fine). This draft incorporates edits from OW, but I'm copying Travis in case I may have missed anything.

Thanks,

Brooke

Brooke Hanson

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## **EPA Provides Grants to Support Environmental Finance Expertise and Outreach for Communities**

For immediate release:

August XX, 2015

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has selected eight universities and one technical assistance provider to receive grant awards. These awards will provide expertise and outreach to communities to help find reliable solutions for financing environmental activities, including water

infrastructure. EPA is committed to providing this service to communities, and the President's budget for FY 2016 requests \$2 million for this award, a \$1 million increase from FY 2015.

"EPA is committed to helping communities meet environmental goals that benefit public health, the environment, and the economy," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "This support will provide financial expertise that helps communities find creative solutions for financing environmental activities."

In light of increasing resource pressures for environmental and human health protection, EPA recognizes that communities need finance-related training, technical assistance, and finance studies to help them develop sustainable economic solutions and meet environmental standards and goals.

EPA grants will support regional Environmental Finance Centers across the country that can work directly with state and local governments, regulated entities, tribes, utilities, and communities to address their specific environmental financing issues.

The awardees EPA selected through a competitive grant process are:

University of Southern Maine – Portland, Maine

Syracuse University – Syracuse, New York

University of Maryland – College Park, Maryland

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Michigan Technical University – Houghton, Michigan

University of New Mexico – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wichita State University – Wichita, Kansas

Rural Community Assistance Corporation – Spokane, Washington

California State University, Sacramento – Sacramento, California

These grantees will provide environmental finance technical assistance in 44 states and 6 U.S. territories. Work is underway to identify an additional grantee to support communities in the remaining states of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Colorado.

Assistance will cover topics such as capacity building for public-purpose water and other environmental infrastructure systems; green jobs and green business products and services; resilient, secure, and sustainable environmental infrastructure; computer-based and other financial and outreach tools for watershed and water system management; public-private partnership models for environmental services, infrastructure, and projects; identification and training on environmental equity and justice; improving drinking water and wastewater utility water conservation, energy efficiency, management, and capital planning; and innovative financing for interstate, state, regional, and local air pollution reduction efforts.

More information is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/envirofinance>